

V. REMARKS

The Office Action objects to drawing Figure 1 because it fails to designate a legend such as "Prior Art". Drawing Figure 1 is corrected by adding the legend "Prior Art". Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Ueda (Japan 9-282954) and Takagi (U.S. Patent No. 5,518,570). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ueda teaches an apparatus for manufacturing flat cable. However, the Office Action admits that this reference fails to teach first and second tension applying means, detecting means and control means as recited in the claims of the present application.

Takagi teaches an apparatus and method for bonding sheet material and its application to manufacture flexible flat cable. The apparatus for bonding the sheet material to an elongated base material includes a transferring device for transferring the sheet material towards the base material and a bonding device for bonding the sheet material being transferred by the transferring device to the base material. A device generating static electricity is disposed adjacent to the bonding device for generating static electricity on the sheet material to cause the sheet material to adhere to the bonding device.

Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for manufacturing flat cable in which plural conductive wires arranged on the same plane are put between a first insulating tape on which first peeling sheets are stuck at predetermined intervals and a second insulating tape on which second peeling sheets are stuck at predetermined intervals to stick the first insulating tape, the conductive wires and the second insulating tape in order recited. Claim 1 recites that the apparatus includes first tension applying means and second tension applying means for respectively applying predetermined tensions to the first insulating tape and the second insulating tape, detecting means and control means. Claim 1 also recites that the detecting means allows the conductive wires to be put between the first insulating tape and the second insulating tape thereafter to detect passing of the first peeling sheet and the second peeling sheet. Further, claim 1 recites that the control means calculates sticking

errors of the first peeling sheets and the second peeling sheets on the basis of detection results that the detecting means have detected and controls the first tension applying means and second tension applying means on the basis of these sticking errors. Also, claim 1 recites that the control means controls the first tension applying means and the second tension applying means to thereby respectively adjust tensions of the first insulating tape and the second insulating tape.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest control means for calculating sticking errors of the first peeling sheets and the second peeling sheets on the basis of detection results that detecting means have detected and controls the first tension applying means and second tension applying means on the basis of these sticking errors. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest that the control means for controlling the first tension applying means and the second tension applying means to thereby respectively adjust tensions of a first insulating tape and a second insulating tape. To the contrary, the applied art teaches a dancer roll assembly 9 to maintain tension of the insulating tape sheet 5 at a constant value (column 5, lines 50-54). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 7 is directed to a method for manufacturing flat cable in which plural conductive wires arranged on the same plane are put between a first insulating tape on which first peeling sheets are stuck at predetermined intervals and a second insulating tape on which second peeling sheets are stuck at predetermined intervals to stick the first insulating tape, the conductive wires and the second insulating tape in order recited. Claim 7 recites that the method includes the steps of:

- allowing the conductive wires to be put between the first
- insulating tape and the second insulating tape thereafter to detect
- passing of the first peeling sheet and the second peeling sheet;
- calculating sticking errors of the first peeling sheets and the

second peeling sheets on the basis of the detection results; and
respectively adjusting tensions applied to the first insulating tape
and the second insulating tape on the basis of the sticking errors.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 7. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the steps of calculating sticking errors of the first peeling sheets and the second peeling sheets on the basis of the detection results and respectively adjusting tensions applied to the first insulating tape and the second insulating tape on the basis of the sticking errors. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and includes all of the features of claim 7. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 7 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Ueda and Takagi as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Ishibuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,713). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Ueda and Takagi. Ishibuchi fails to cure the deficiencies of Ueda and Takagi. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of these references.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Ueda and Takagi as applied claims 1 and 7 and further in view of Ostman (U.S. Patent No. 4,357,750). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ostman teaches a jumper cable and includes a plurality of spaced-apart metallic conductors. The metallic conductors are laminated to flexible insulating films which support the conductors and maintain the conductors in the spaced-apart relationship to one another.

As discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over Ueda and Takagi. Ostman fails to cure the deficiencies of Ueda and Takagi. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the combination of these references.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Claim 9 depends from claim 7 and includes all of the features of claim 7. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Ueda, Takagi and Ostman. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over Ueda and Takagi. Ostman fails to cure the deficiencies of Ueda and Takagi. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the combination of these references.

Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claim 9 depends from claim 7 and includes all of the features of claim 7. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

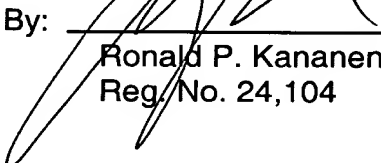
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Petition for Extension of Time (three months)
Replacement Sheet(s) of Drawings Fig. 1

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